

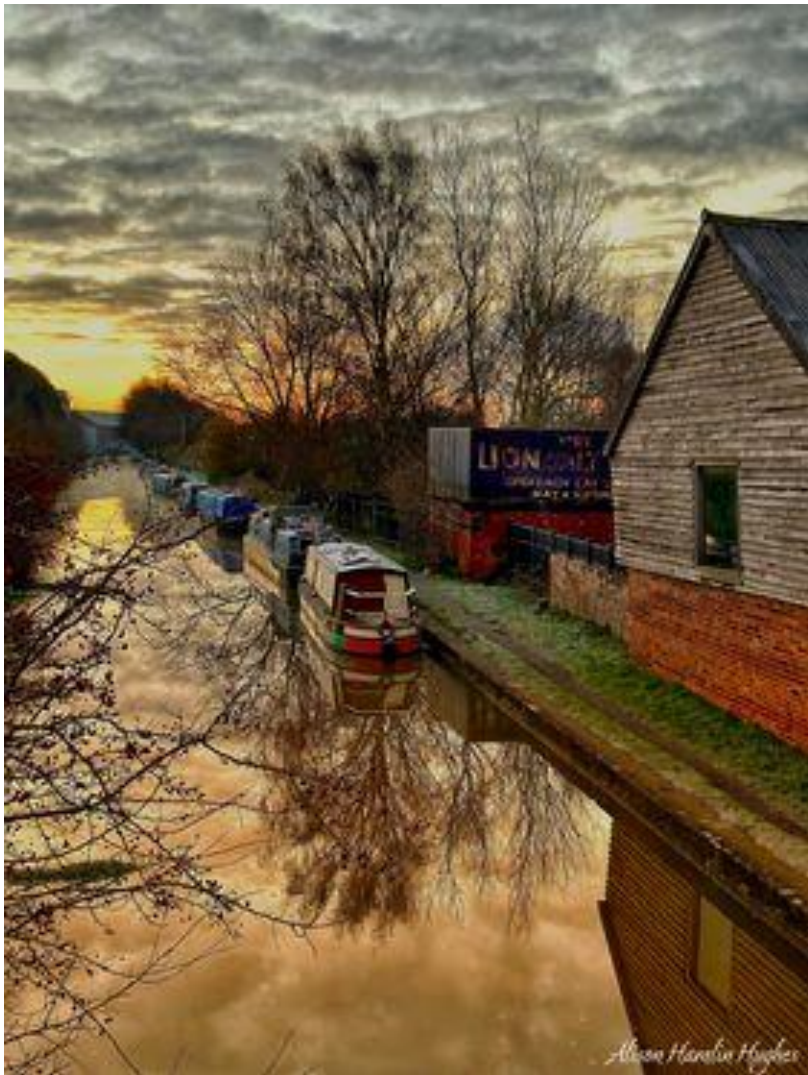


# Marston Murmurs

The Newsletter of Your Marston Parish Council    February 2024

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*Alison Harriet Hughes*

## **A word from the Editor.**

This is my first attempt at producing anything like this, so please bear with me if it is not to the usual standard. Ian will be a hard act to follow!



Happy New Year to everyone and we hope it has got off to a good start. Every New Year brings its unique challenges and hopefully successes.

We have said our goodbyes to Ian Stanley and Caroline Constable, who have both contributed greatly to the running of the Parish Council and will be much missed.

At the time of writing, we have vacancies for a Parish Council Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and two Parish Councillor vacancies.

## **Parish Council Meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting will take Place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Church Hall.

Proceedings start promptly at 18.45. Public are welcome to attend and bring to the Councils attention issues for the Council to consider at the beginning of the meeting.

## **Cover Photo**

Thank you to Alison Hamlin Hughes for the beautiful photo of the canal and Salt Works. It is a pleasure to be able to share it.



The Salt Barge, on Ollershaw Lane in Marston, has been re-listed as an asset of community value. This is the first stage of the Community Right to Bid, a legal power designed to protect assets such as pubs, shops and community centres from closing. By being listed as an Asset of Community Value, the community will be given notice if The Salt Barge goes up for sale. They will then have six months to raise the funds to buy it. The Salt Barge was already listed events and a place for local people to meet and interact,” read the decision notice. “Due to its location, it also attracts visitors from further afield including canal users, visitors to the Lion Salt Works, walkers/dog walkers using the conservation area of which the pub is a part and residents from the adjacent parishes of Wincham and Great Budworth.

“The pub is also less than 0.5 miles from Ashwood Residential Park, a semi-retirement/retirement development comprising

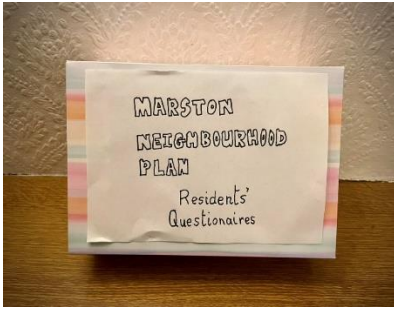
150 plots, and is used by residents for refreshments and meetings.

“The pub hosts community events at key times of the year as well as charity events and music evenings.

“It offers meeting room facilities that are well used by local heritage groups, organisations and clubs including The Mummers and Morris dancers.

“The pub recently installed five TV screens for sporting events and has its own dominoes, pool and darts teams who compete in local leagues.”

It was approved by Maria Byrne, CWAC’s director of environment and communities, on December 18. “The pub continues to be recognised by the nominators as an integral valid part of the community. Concluding, Ms Byrne said: “On the evidence provided it is therefore the opinion of the local authority that The Salt Barge, comprising the main building, adjacent beer garden and car park meets the definition of an Asset of Community Value in that the actual current use of the asset is not an ancillary use, it furthers the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and it is realistic to think that there can continue to be non-ancillary use of the asset which will further the social wellbeing or social interests of the community in the future.” As an Asset of Community Value but this had been due to expire and so Marston Parish Council submitted a fresh application to Cheshire West and Chester Council on September 29, 2023.



## Neighbourhood Plan

We are grateful to all the residents who have filled out the questionnaire, which will help us form the Neighbourhood Plan. We are going to leave the posting boxes at the garage and the Salt

Barge for another 3 weeks to give everyone a little longer to post their opinions of the village. If you have lost the form, just jot down what you like most and least like about the village, what improvements you would like to see, what amenities you use and your vision for the future of the village. Your opinions are important and we want to include them all.

## Green Bin Subscriptions

Residents can subscribe to have their garden waste collected in 2024 from 8 January 2024, with collections due to restart on the week of 26 February 2024. The



service operates on an opt-in basis and will cost £50 per bin per calendar year for 2024. Residents can subscribe for as many bins as they need, but each will be subject to the £50 charge. Residents in receipt of full council tax reduction will be offered a reduction of £10 on the cost of one garden waste bin.

The best time to sign up for the service is before the end of January to benefit from all 20 collections during the calendar year.

## February: Spring is in sight

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There plenty to do this month to prepare for the season ahead



as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

### Jobs this month

Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover. Chit potato tubers

Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off

Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering

Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting in the green. Prune Conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea

Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

Prune late-summer flowering clematis, cutting stems back to healthy buds about 30cm from the base.



Divide congested clumps of herbaceous perennials and grasses to make vigorous new plants for free.

Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds

# Rhubarb Crumble Muffins

## Ingredients

### For the muffin mix

175g caster sugar  
175g rhubarb, halved lengthways  
then diced  
2 tbsp sunflower oil  
1 egg  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
125ml buttermilk  
200g plain flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda



### For the crumble topping

50g light muscovado sugar  
50g plain flour  
25g porridge oats  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
50g butter

## Method

### STEP 1

Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Line a 12-hole muffin tin with paper muffin cases. Stir the sugar and rhubarb together and set aside while you make the crumble topping. Mix together the muscovado sugar with the flour, oats and cinnamon, then rub in the butter until clumpy with your fingertips.

## STEP 2

Stir the oil and egg, vanilla and buttermilk into the sugary rhubarb (don't worry if it's a little bit juicy). Now, add the flour, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda and stir well.

## STEP 3

Quickly spoon into the cases, then scatter each with a thick layer of the crumble mixture. Bake for 15-18 mins until golden and a cocktail stick poked into the centre of a muffin comes out clean.

Cool on a wire rack.

## **Rhubarb**

The outlandishly coloured vegetable that thinks it a fruit. Rhubarb makes deliciously comforting puddings but its sharpness works extremely well with meat and oily fish dishes. Forced rhubarb (grown in the dark) has yellowish leaves and usually appears in January. The field-grown variety replaces it around April and is less tender but often more flavourful.



Rhubarb was used as a medicine in ancient China. It was brought to Europe by Marco Polo and has been eaten as a food since the eighteenth century.

## February Quiz Questions

1. What star sign are you if you were born in early February?
2. February gets its name from the word februa which comes from which language?
3. Valentine Day is celebrated on which date in February?
4. The February Revolution was the first of two revolutions which took place in Russia in which year?
5. What happened in Britain on the 15th of February, 1971?
6. Februalia was the Roman festival of ritual what?
7. On 16th February, 1659, what was used for the first time in Britain as Mr Nicholas Vanacker settles a debt?
8. In leap years, February starts on the same day of the week as which other month?
9. Which violet variety of quartz, often used in jewellery, is the traditional birthstone for February?



10. In the DC Comics, on which date in February is Superman birthday?

11. Which popular tradition is celebrated in the United States and Canada on February 2? (Hint: it's also the title of a 1993 comedy film starring Bill Murray.)



12. In which resort city on the Black Sea was the Crimea Conference held in February, 1945?

13. In the sporting calendar, which event usually happens on the first Sunday in February?

14. Which American federal holiday is celebrated on the third Monday in February?

15. On the 12 February, 1554, who was beheaded at the tower of London?

16. Which country leader once said, I have two generals who will not fail me: Generals, January and February?

17. In the poem called The Months by Sara Coleridge, 'if hot July brings cooling showers', what does February bring?

18. True or false. It is possible to have Easter in late February?

Answers on P.14



## Dog Fouling

Please ensure you carry poo bags at all times when walking your dog. The council does have a small supply of bags if you require. It is a legal requirement to carry bags and dispose responsibly.

## Coffee Mornings

A warm welcome awaits on Tuesday mornings at the weekly coffee mornings. Come along and enjoy lively chats, a quiz to engage your brain cells and hot beverages and toasted snacks. Doors open at 10am until 12 noon.



## Chair Exercise Class

The popular chair exercise class runs on Thursdays from 11am. No need to book, just come along and join in. £5 per session. All abilities and adult ages welcome. Get fit, have fun.



The Very Green Grocery are now accepting donations of tins, jars etc at the Church Hall on Tuesday and Thursday Mornings between 10.30 and 12.00



## **Marston Parish Council Vacancy's Part time Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)**

Marston Parish Council, is looking for a part time clerk/RFO to work an average of 4 hours per week including evening meetings as required.

The successful candidate will work from home and be the public's primary point of contact with the Council, carry out tasks as allocated by the Council and maintain the Council's accounts. Previous experience in local government or similar role would be welcome, but full training can be given.

Starting salary is in the region of £12.63 to £13.73 per hour depending on experience.

To apply, please send your CV with a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role to [marion.potts703@gmail.com](mailto:marion.potts703@gmail.com)  
The closing date for receipt of applications is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

## Parish Councillor Vacancy x 2

Are you passionate about your village of Marston and eager to make a difference in your community?

Here is a wonderful opportunity to do just that! We are looking for two dedicated and enthusiastic individuals to join the Marston Parish Council as Parish Councillors.

The role is your chance to be a driving force behind the positive development of our beloved village.

You will have the chance to directly influence the future of Marston. You will get a deep sense of fulfilment and pride in your contributions to the community.

There are opportunities to connect with other passionate individuals who share your love of the village.

You will also see personal growth and development through hands on experience in local governance.

If you are excited about this opportunity, please contact any Parish Councillor or send an email to [clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk)



# Hall Hire

The Church Hall on Ollershaw Lane is a great place for parties, band practice or events and activities. To hire contact Angie or Angela. Hall costs just £10 per hour to hire.



Angie Kemmett	07716565038
Angela Johnson	07729910045

Answers:

1. Aquarius
2. Latin
3. 14th February
4. 19175
5. Decimalisation
6. Purification
7. A cheque
8. August
9. Amethyst
10. 29th February
11. Groundhog Day
12. Yalta
13. Super Bowl
14. Presidents Day
15. Lady Jane Grey
16. Russia (Tsar Nicholas I)
17. The rain
18. False (March 22 is the earliest Easter can occur)

**Marston Parish Council** cannot be held responsible for any errors, misprints or opinions stated in this publication. The views expressed by the contributors are their own and not necessarily the views of the editor .

**Your Contributions and ideas are welcomed!** Please send to the editor or any one of the councillors or even give us a ring.

## Useful Contacts.

### Parish Councillors

Marion Potts	CHAIR 07842894733	marion.potts703@gmail.com
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Angela Johnson	07729910045	Angelazjohnson48@gmail.com
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Vacancy	CLERK	clerk@marstonparishcouncil.co.uk

### Marbury Ward Councillors

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Norman Wright	01606 74788	<a href="mailto:Norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">Norman.wright@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>
Phil Marshall	07917171438	<a href="mailto:Phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk">Phil.marshall@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk</a>

# Cut Out and Keep


Please place your containers out by 7am


**Tuesday Week B**

## Cheshire West & Chester Council Recycling and waste collection dates

Your collection day is a **Tuesday**

Please refer to the calendar below for your 2024 collection dates.

 Please place out your recycling containers and food waste bin

 Please place out your household waste container and food waste bin

 Change of collection day

December 2023					January 2024				
TUE 5	TUE 12	TUE 19	WED 27		WED 3	TUE 9	TUE 16	TUE 23	TUE 30
February 2024					March 2024				
TUE 6	TUE 13	TUE 20	TUE 27		TUE 5	TUE 12	TUE 19	TUE 26	
April 2024					May 2024				
TUE 2	TUE 9	TUE 16	TUE 23	TUE 30	TUE 7	TUE 14	TUE 21	TUE 28	
June 2024					July 2024				
TUE 4	TUE 11	TUE 18	TUE 25		TUE 2	TUE 9	TUE 16	TUE 23	TUE 30
August 2024					September 2024				
TUE 6	TUE 13	TUE 20	TUE 27		TUE 3	TUE 10	TUE 17	TUE 24	
October 2024					November 2024				
TUE 1	TUE 8	TUE 15	TUE 22	TUE 29	TUE 5	TUE 12	TUE 19	TUE 26	

Visit: [cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-bin](https://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your-bin)



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